

REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Examiner's Telephonic Interview.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted with the Applicant's representative on March 19, 2004. During that interview, the Examiner acknowledged that neither U.S. Patent No. 6,607,483 to Holland nor U.S. Patent No. 6,478,736 to Mault could properly be used to reject claims drawn to the present invention under 35 USC §102(e). Specifically, the Examiner acknowledged that neither the Holland reference that claims a priority filing date of April 5, 2000 nor the Mault reference which claims a priority filing date of October 8, 1999 could be used to reject the present application which claims a priority date of September 16, 1999.

Disposition of the Claims.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the instant application. Specifically, claims 1-17 are currently rejected as being anticipated in view of the prior art.

Summary of Formal Objections to the Specification.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as being too long under MPEP §608.01(b).

In response, the Applicant has submitted an amended Abstract that is shorter (123 words) and in compliance with MPEP §608.01(b).

Summary of Prior Art Rejections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,607,483 to Holland

("Holland"). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,478,736 to Mault ("Mault").

Claims 1-9 Cannot be Properly Rejected Under 35 USC §102(e) In View of the Holland Reference.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 as being anticipated by the Holland reference. As discussed in the telephonic interview, the Holland reference cannot be properly used to reject claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e). The Holland reference claims a priority filing date of April 5, 2000 based upon provisional patent application Serial No. 60/194,819.

The present application is a national stage filing of PCT Application No. PCT/KR00/01028 filed on September 14, 2000. This PCT Application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 1999-0039735 filed on September 16, 1999. The Examiner acknowledged this claim of priority made under 35 USC §119 and §120 on the Office Action summary sheet. Since the present application claims a priority date of September 16, 1999 that has been acknowledged by the Examiner, the Holland reference cannot be used to reject claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e).

Claims 10-17 Cannot be Properly Rejected Under 35 USC §102(e) In View of the Mault Reference.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-17 as being anticipated by the Mault reference. As discussed in the telephonic interview, the Mault reference cannot be properly used to reject claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e). The Mault reference claims priority filing dates from a series of provisional applications, the earliest of which was filed on October 8, 1999 and assigned

Serial No. 60/158,553. As noted above, the present invention claims a priority filing date of September 16, 1999 which the Examiner has acknowledged. Therefore, the Mault reference cannot be used to reject claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e).

Conclusion

By the present response, the Applicant has provided remarks that require the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of claims 1-17 as being anticipated by the Holland and Mault references. In particular, the Applicant has pointed out to the Examiner that the present application claims a priority filing date that is earlier than the priority filing dates of both the Holland and Mault references. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 1-17 as being anticipated by the Holland and Mault references.

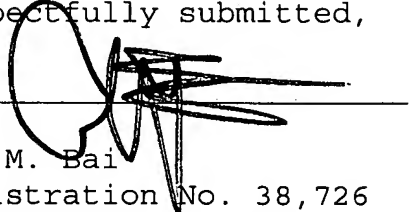
In addition, the Applicant has submitted a new Abstract in full compliance with MPEP §608.01(b) to address the Examiner's objection to the specification. Based on the foregoing, the application is in a condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would place the application in still better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney collect.

March 29, 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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